

Remarks

Claims 1-65 and 124-134 are pending in the present application. Claims 66-123 were withdrawn by the Examiner from further consideration pursuant to 37 CFR 1.142(b) as being drawn to a non-elected invention in a non-final Office Action dated December 15, 2003. Claim 28 is rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph as being indefinite. Claims 1-10, 14, 16-28, 30, 36, 44-47, 54, 55, 58-64 and 131-123 were rejected under 35 USC §103(a). Claims 10-13, 15, 29, 31-35, 37 and 28 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but the Examiner noted that they would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 39-43, 48-53, 56, 57, 65, and 124-130 were allowed. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the application, withdrawal of all objections, and allowance of the application in view of the amendments and remarks below.

The Amendments to the Claims

In order to expedite prosecution and issuance of the application, Applicants have amended claims 10, 12, 15, and 29 to incorporate all the limitations of the base claims and any intervening claims, as the Examiner has stated that these claims and the subsequent claims that depend from these claims, specifically claims 11, 13, 31-35, 37, 38, and 51-53, would be allowable if written in this manner.

Applicants respectively disagree with the Examiner as to the rejections regarding the remaining pending claims. However, in order to bring this application to issuance, Applicants have canceled without prejudice claims 1-9, 14, 16-28, 30, 36, 44-47, 58-64, and 131-134, and reserve all rights to refile claims of the same or similar scope in a continuing application..

The amendments to the claims do not introduce new matter. Applicants respectfully submit that the amendments to the claims put the application in condition for allowance. The Examiner is respectfully requested to enter the amendments to the claims and allow all pending and amended claims.

Conclusion

The Applicants appreciate the Examiner's careful and thorough review of the application and submit that the Examiner's concerns have been addressed by the amendments and remarks above. The Applicants accordingly request the Examiner to withdraw all objections and allow the application. In the event the Examiner believes a telephonic discussion would expedite allowance or help to resolve outstanding issues, prosecution of the application, then the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned at (650) 687-3905. Please direct all correspondence to the following customer number: 37485.

In the unlikely event that the transmittal letter is separated from this document and the Patent Office determines that a further extension and/or other relief is required, Applicants petition for any required relief including extensions of time and authorizes the Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to **Deposit Account No. 502731.**

Respectfully submitted,



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